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BOOK REVIEWS

BARKER, J. ELLIS. *The Great Problems of British Statesmanship*. Pp. 445. Price, \$3.60. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1917.

This book by J. Ellis Barker, author of "Modern Germany," "Great and Greater Britain," "The Foundations of Germany," presents concisely the historical facts back of the problems of British statesmanship with special reference to Constantinople, Asiatic-Turkey, Austria-Hungary, Poland, Anglo-American relationships and industrial and financial problems. Particularly on international matters, the book is informing and of intense interest and value to all those who wish to have available pertinent facts as to the historical background of the present war and the international problems growing out of that war.

C. L. K.

COMMONS, JOHN R., ET AL. *History of Labour in the United States*. Vol. I, pp. xxv, 625. Vol. II, pp. xx, 620. Price, \$6.50. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1918.

This work forms the fourth of a series designed to include a divisional history from each of the twelve divisions composing the department of economics and sociology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C., according to a general plan for studying the economic history of the United States. The introductory note by Professor Henry W. Farnam explains the plan of the series and gives a list of the books already published. The collaborators have now reorganised as the Board of Research Associates in American Economic History and expect to publish additional volumes from time to time.

The present work has been written in collaboration by six different authors and deals mainly with the history of labor conditions, of labor philosophies, and of labor movements—not primarily with the structure or policies of labor unions, nor with the history of individual unions, nor with the legislative results of movements, nor with current problems;—the field treated is rather the background which explains structure, policies, results and problems. Professor John R. Commons, under whose direction the various studies were made, outlines in a single chapter the interaction of economic and political conditions with the many varieties of individualistic, socialistic, and protectionist philosophies which have made the American labor movement what it is.

The various parts and their authors are as follows: Colonial and Federal Beginnings, David J. Saposs; Citizenship, Helen L. Sumner; Trade Unionism, Edward B. Mittelman; Humanitarianism, Henry E. Hoagland; Nationalisation, John B. Andrews; Upheaval and Reorganisation, Selig Perlman. The first four studies treat of the labor movement down to 1860, while the last two bring it down to the present time. The various studies are of uneven merit and the work leaves the impression of the need of bringing its various parts into a complete and homogeneous whole.

Only a single chapter is given to developments since 1896 and this is a mere sketch. The bibliography given is limited for such a work and is lacking in several cases where completeness is claimed. The work likewise leaves no sense of mastery of the subject as do such works as *Industrial Democracy* and the *History of Trade Unionism* by the Webbs. In spite of these criticisms, however, the work is a distinct contribution to the literature of the labor movement; it brings together for the first time a vast amount of information invaluable to all interested in social development and should furnish a point of departure and an incentive for further studies.

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